



# ANDREW ONG FRACS

Breast & Endocrine (Thyroid/Parathyroid) Surgeon  
Laparoscopic General Surgery  
Gastroscopy & Colonoscopy (GESA-accredited)

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## I have had breast cancer surgery. Now what happens?

Dr. Ong published this information sheet specifically for his breast cancer patients. It is designed to assist their understanding of what happens in the 2-4 week period immediately following surgery for cancer.

### I will be discharged from hospital soon. What happens when I am discharged?

Generally, you will be provided with a discharge summary and a script for antibiotics and pain killers. You should also receive another information sheet by Dr Ong on how to care for your dressings.

If an appointment has not been already made for you, you will need to call Dr Ong's rooms and make an appointment to see him in 2 weeks.

### How soon will I know the results of the surgery?

Patients who had surgery at the private hospital will receive an official pathology report within 1 week.

Patients who have been discharged from the public hospital will receive an official pathology report within 2 weeks.

### Do I need to go and see my GP after discharge?

There is no set rule that you *have* to see your GP after discharge. Some patients like to visit their GP to check "everything's OK" or just to debrief. Some are happy to wait until their appointment with Dr Ong and skip a post-discharge GP visit.

### Will I need chemotherapy / radiotherapy?

This depends on the results of the official pathology report. Dr Ong will discuss the report with you when you see him at the first post-op appointment.

### If I need chemotherapy, when will this start?

Chemotherapy cannot commence until you have healed sufficiently from surgery. Generally, this means 1 month after surgery

### If I need radiotherapy, when will this start?

If you require radiotherapy, without needing chemotherapy, this starts generally 1 month after surgery. You will need to have healed sufficiently from surgery before radiotherapy can commence.

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## If I need both chemotherapy and radiotherapy, which will come first?

Chemotherapy comes first, followed by radiotherapy.

## How do I get the appointments at the Cancer Centre to arrange chemotherapy / radiotherapy?

There is nothing you have to do. The referrals and appointments are made after Dr Ong has discussed your individual case at a multi-disciplinary at the Cancer Centre. A multi-disciplinary meeting is a large meeting where other breast surgeons, radiation doctors, chemotherapy doctors, nurses and allied health professionals all get together to discuss the results of surgery and decide what is the best treatment for the patient based on their unique pathology report.

## So do I just wait for a call from the Cancer Centre?

Yes you do. If you do not hear from them in 1 or 2 weeks after meeting with Dr Ong post-op, then please call Dr Ong's rooms to work out the reason why. Occasionally, there can be unintended delays and there is no harm in "chasing things up" to make sure the processes are moving along.

## EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE TIMELINES AFTER SURGERY

Breast surgery → (2 weeks) → Appt with → (2 weeks) → See oncologist at → (variable wait) → start chemo then  
finished Dr Ong Cancer centre radiotherapy

Breast surgery → (2 weeks) → Appt with → (2 weeks) → See oncologist at → (variable wait) → start radiotherapy  
finished Dr Ong Cancer centre

Breast surgery → (2 weeks) → Appt with → (2 weeks) → See oncologist at → no further treatment required  
finished Dr Ong Cancer centre

Breast surgery → (2 weeks) → Appt with → (variable wait) → further surgery recommended  
finished Dr Ong

Dr ANDREW ONG  
Breast, Endocrine & General Surgeon



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